

PATENT

Atty Docket No.: 70019413-1
App. Ser. No.: 10/773,910

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The statuses of the claims are set forth in parentheses.

1. (Currently amended) A mechanism for sensing the status of a media stack tray which dispenses media to a printing device, the media stack tray being associated with a dispensing device which dispenses media from the media stack tray, the mechanism comprising:

a probe having at least two positions such that the probe is located in a first position when the media stack tray has an empty status and is located in a second position when the media stack tray has a loaded status, the probe being mounted relative to the media stack tray so that when the media stack tray has a loaded status the media is normally located between the probe and the dispensing device; and

a detector associated with the probe, the detector for detecting the position of the probe, wherein the probe and the detector are located on opposite sides of the media when the media stack tray has a loaded status.

2. (Original) The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the probe comprises:

a shaft which is pivotally mounted to the media stack tray, the shaft being biased so as to locate the probe in the first position when the media stack tray has an empty status; and

a media contacting part extending from the shaft,
said media contacting part bearing against the media stack when the media stack tray has a loaded status so as to locate the probe in the second position.

3. (Original) The mechanism of claim 2 wherein the shaft is gravitationally biased.

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4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The mechanism of claim 3 wherein the detector and the dispensing device are arranged on the same side of the media stack.

6. (Original) The mechanism of claim 2 wherein the probe is mounted on a stack support platform of the media stack tray, the stack support platform being biased so as to be movable relative to the dispensing device so as to maintain a substantially constant positional relationship between the top of the media stack and the dispensing device.

7. (Currently amended) A media stack tray for a printer, the media stack tray for dispensing media from a media stack, the media stack tray being associated with a dispensing device which dispenses media from the media stack tray, the media stack tray comprising:

a mechanism for sensing the status of the media stack tray, the mechanism including:

a media contacting probe having plural positions such that the media contacting probe is located in a first position when the media stack tray has an empty status and is located in a second position when the media stack tray has a loaded status; and

a detector associated with the media contacting probe, the detector for detecting the position of the media contacting probe, wherein the probe and the detector are located on opposite sides of the media when the media stack tray has a loaded status; and

a platform for supporting the media stack wherein the media contacting probe is mounted to the platform so that when the media stack tray has a loaded status the media is normally located between the probe and the dispensing device.